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Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The Commission on Human Rights, at its forty-eighth session, adopted resolution 1992/17 entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion and Belief". Paragraphs 5, 6, 7, 8, 14 and 15 of the resolution read as follows:

. "The Commission on Human Rights,

"...

"5. Invites the United Nations University and other academic and research institutions to undertake programmes and studies on the encouragement of understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief;

"6. Considers it desirable to enhance the promotional and public information activities of the United Nations in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief and to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to this end in the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights;

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"7. Reiterates, therefore, its invitation to the Secretary-General to continue to give high priority to the dissemination of the text of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion and Belief in all the official languages of the United Nations and in national languages, and to take all appropriate measures to make the text available for use by the United Nations information centres, as well as by other interested bodies;

"8. Encourages the Human Rights Committee to give priority to its announced intention to prepare a general comment on article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, dealing with freedom of thought, conscience and religion;

"...

"14. Requests the Secretary-General to provide all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur to enable him to report to the Commission at its forty-ninth session;

"15. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its forty-ninth session on measures taken to implement the present resolution."

"...

2. In response to paragraph 5 of the resolution, the United Nations University indicated that it was not currently conducting any activity related to the implementation of the aforementioned Declaration.

3. In response to paragraph 6 of the resolution, a fact sheet on the subject of religious intolerance will be published in the course of 1993 in the context of the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights.

4. In response to paragraph 7 of resolution 1992/17, the Department of Public Information undertook the following activities:

(a) The Department of Public Information continued distribution through Headquarters and through its network of 67 information centres and services the pamphlet with the text of the Declaration. Information centres and services, as part of their regular activities, encouraged usage by local media, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions of the text of the Declaration;

(b) The adoption of the resolution was highlighted by the Department's daily news programmes for broadcasting organizations worldwide and received emphasis in its press release service (English and French) on 22 February 1992;

(c) The Department, in cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights, made arrangements for the Declaration, together with other important documents

related to human rights, to be available at the reference libraries of information centres and services to researchers, students and academicians;

(d) The commemoration of Human Rights Day provided an opportunity for United Nations information centres and services to bring human rights documents to the attention of large audiences at locally organized exhibits, seminars and round tables;

(e) Due to public demand, the pamphlet with the text of the Declaration was reprinted. The latest reprints of the pamphlet were undertaken in Arabic and Russian (5,000 copies each).

5. The Human Rights Committee informed the Secretary-General that it was in the process of preparing a general comment on article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It is expected that the general comment will be adopted by the Human Rights Committee at its forty-seventh session scheduled to be held from 22 March to 8 April 1993.

6. The Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on religious intolerance has received substantive assistance in the fulfilment of his mandate from the Centre for Human Rights, within existing resources. His report has been published as document E/CN.4/1993/62.